



# Chimes

April 2016  
Christ Presbyterian Church

Easter is about resurrection, and resurrection is about glorious change. Try to find in Scripture where belief in the risen Christ involves trying to keep life the same.

It starts with Jesus himself. Resurrection changes even him, giving him a body that passes through doors (Jn 20:19) and an appearance that even those close to him don't always recognize (20:14). Then there are the disciples, whose fear changes to peace (20:21), whose doubt gives way belief (20:28); and whose plans for where they would go turn into obedience to where they *wouldn't* go except that Jesus leads them there (21:18). This is to say, resurrection life is disruptive—in a good way, but still disruptive.

In her poem, "To Begin With, the Sweet Grass," Mary Oliver writes:

We do one thing or another; we stay the same, or we  
change.  
Congratulations, if  
you have changed.

...Let me ask you this.  
Do you also think that beauty exists for some  
fabulous reason?

And, if you have not been enchanted by this adventure—  
your life—  
what would do for you?

Life feels adventurous only when we are open to it unfolding differently than we'd plan for ourselves. It's good to remember: none of the disciples expected Jesus to rise from the dead. If God hadn't disrupted their expectations, Jesus would still be in the tomb.

This is why in Life Groups and in worship this Eastertide, we will receive suggested "Soul Training" disciplines that put us in position to be changed by God. All of them are ordinary and practical: Sleep. Practice silence. Name your blessings. Practice breathing. Walk more slowly. Notice and release tension in the body. These have the power to change the life we were planning for ourselves into the life God gives us in Christ.

Whatever the disciples' plans had been, the resurrection disrupted them and launched them into a life of gospel adventure. Some change we resist or fear may be just where Jesus calls us to gospel adventure, asking us to welcome how our lives are enchanted, even unexpectedly, with his.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- p. 2 Life Groups
- p. 4 Vacation Bible School
- p. 6 Red Bag Ministry

## JOIN THE CPC RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM! April 30, 3-11pm

Relay For Life of West Geauga is a jam-packed 8-hour Purple Party with a Purpose! There is music, fun, entertainment, and friendly competitions for participants.

Team members will take turns walking the track and participating in the themed laps. The event is family friendly - there is something for everyone to enjoy!

The CPC Team will have at least one walker on the track for the duration of the event. Individuals and families don't need be at the entire relay—come for an hour or however much you can!

### How do I take part?

- Click the link here or Sign up at [RelayforLife.org/WestGaugaOH](http://RelayforLife.org/WestGaugaOH)
- Support a Relay for Life team member by giving a contribution

In addition to walking the Relay for Life, CPC Team members may provide volunteer support for the event, by staffing sign-in tables, setting up luminaria, and other modes of service. Contact Pastor Reeves at: [matt@christpcusa.org](mailto:matt@christpcusa.org) or 440-313-7562.



## MAY 14 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP: from 8:00am – Noon

It's time for sprucing up our grounds after this long, winter! Bring your work gloves and tools and stay for lunch afterwards! Sign-up in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Jane Lyon: 440-256-8944.

## EASTERTIDE “LIFE GROUPS”

Easter proclaims that God is about life! During the weeks of Easter, April 3-May 15, groups of 8-10 will gather weekly in homes for community and conversation on living with God in daily life. James Bryan Smith's book, *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*, will serve as a foundation for exploring what it means to live as Jesus' apprentice in everything we do.

Who might sign up for a Life Group? Those who:

- seek more depth and purpose in daily life;
- might feel alone or aimless in day-to-day life as a Christian;
- want relationship with Jesus to be more integrated with “ordinary” life (but maybe aren't sure how to do that);
- desire the love and freedom Christ gives to take deeper hold in daily things.

Groups will meet for approximately an hour for six sessions in church members' homes. It still isn't too late to sign up! Contact Pastor Matt Reeves with questions or for more information.

## WELCOME PASTOR ALAND SMITH AS PARISH ASSOCIATE

At the invitation of Pastor Reeves and the Session, Pastor Aland Smith has begun a Parish Associate relationship with Christ Church. A Parish Associate is a pastor who, though not installed, maintains a relationship with a congregation, often performing pastoral functions within it. (All PC(U.S.A.) pastors, even retired, are officially members of the presbytery, not of a congregation.)

Pastor Smith's Parish Associate work will focus on ministry with older adults—maintaining relationships with older adults, visiting homebound members, and organizing older adult programming and fellowship opportunities. He will also occasionally preach and teach. Even as Pastor Smith focuses on these things, Pastor Reeves will continue to visit older members both in their homes and in the hospital.

We welcome Rev. Dr. Aland Smith and the ministry he offers among us!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Did you know that children's Sunday school is a relatively recent invention? It began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as general education, with **some** religious training. Since then Sunday school has evolved from education to faith formation and cycled through many movements, styles, and approaches. At Christ Church, we've settled into our own unique program that is shaping our children, nurturing relationships, and most importantly helping our children to know and to worship a loving God.

I want you to know that there is intention and purpose behind everything we do in Sunday school, from the stories we tell to the variety of activities we do. Even the arrangement of our seating and the snacks we eat together are chosen with deliberateness and intention. We use the human experiences of community, storytelling, and exploration to bring understanding to the truths of Heaven. Here is a small sampling of recent ways we have done this.

A few weeks ago during a Preschool lesson about Peter walking on water, the children put their hands in actual water to see how it would feel if their fingers tried to walk on water. Then they were asked, "How do you think Peter felt when he began to sink?" and "How do you feel when someone invites you to do something new or different?"

After the Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade class watched the figure of Jesus in their story heal the blind Bartimaeus, their teacher asked them, "I wonder how it would feel to see for the very first time?" and "I wonder why the first thing Bartimaeus did after he could see was to follow Jesus on the way?"

When the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class talked about the ten lepers whom Jesus healed and how nine of them continued on their way without stopping to thank and praise Jesus, they played with making up their own wacky excuses for not doing something, using every day props laid out in the classroom. They then talked together about their own possible excuses for failing to notice the power and grace of Jesus in their lives. The following week, they made take-home gratitude journals.

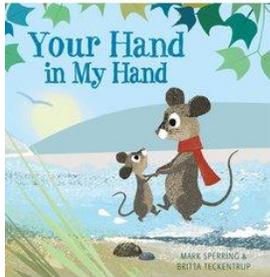


What these accounts don't capture is the part where God takes over. There is a safe space throughout all we do within which God acts, where connections and lasting impressions are made and relationships are nurtured. You may have noticed the picture of the dove hanging on all of the Sunday school doors. Our Sunday school kids would tell you that the dove is a Biblical symbol of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Those pictures are there to remind that amidst the art projects, the games and all the other activity, is the Spirit hovering... accomplishing more than we could ever do in 45 minutes.

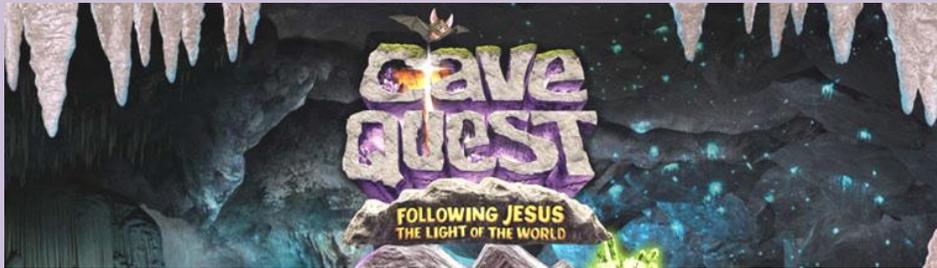
*Elizabeth*



I used to play a game with my kids when they were little. I'd ask them, "Who loves you?" They'd answer, "Mommy" and "Daddy." Then I'd ask them, "Who **else** loves you?" We would then progress through a long list of our family and friends so that the kids could reflect on everyone who was there for them.



We always ended the list with God and Jesus. *Your Hand in My Hand* by Mark Sperring and Britta Teckentrup depicts a simple, strong, and loving presence that walks alongside you, accompanying you through the puddles, winds, and rainbows of life. Hands teach. Hands comfort. Hands lead. And certain ones never let go. Ask your child, "Who holds your hand?" Then tell them who...



### CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGE 3 THROUGH STUDENTS ENTERING 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Come join us for an exciting 4 days, as we come together to follow Jesus, the Light of the World at this year's Vacation Bible School, June 13th – 16th, 9:00am to noon. Each day will be filled with Bible stories, music, games, snacks and a science station, each geared toward building a rock-solid foundation in God's love.

Over the course of 4 days, kids will learn how Jesus will help guide them through the difficult times. The main Bible points for the program are:

- Jesus gives us hope.
- Jesus gives us courage
- Jesus gives us direction.
- Jesus gives us love.
- Jesus gives us his power.

Registration forms will be mailed out at the end of April. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Don't forget to invite your friends. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Boucek 440-338-1926.



Amber has moved:

Amber Balista  
4730 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80220

330-719-3688

amberbalista@gmail.com

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Month of March was filled with all kinds of new things and many emotions for those involved with the youth ministry at CPC: true to the arrival of “spring.” As the dead of winter was still around us, we were saddened to hear that Amber Balista, our loved youth leader, would be leaving us. We shed tears as we shared many hugs and farewells with her. This news also brought us joy as we celebrated many times with Amber before her departure and excitement for her and Anthony as they begin new adventures. We could feel the hope of spring coming soon for them as they follow Anthony’s dream together. And I felt that same hope for the Youth at CPC as I experienced a wonderful sunny day today with the first signs of spring all around.

In Amber’s last month with us, she brought adults and youth together in a program called “bridges.” We did not know what kind of showing to expect for the “mixed” group, but left things in God’s hands. The Holy Spirit was truly at work, as God brought together an equally “yoked” group of 8 youth and 8 adults.

The topic in this session, as well as 2 more to follow, was “decision making.” We all had fun deciding whether each person liked Chinese or Italian food better, would rather be alone or with people, and who preferred a Jeep over a Mercedes (amazingly, only one Mercedes driver in the bunch!) This helped to ease everyone’s comfort level, so that we could discuss deeper decisions that folks are faced with over the next few years and how to wisely go about this decision making. As a bonus, the Youth had fun teaching the adults the game of “sardines.” I feel blessed to have taken part in such an awesome group of Christ-centered people, beginning to know each other better and to share a bit about ourselves.

What a true gift we are giving our Youth at CPC: a safe haven with friends and mentors of all different ages and backgrounds. This is helping them to express their true selves, to experience the love and acceptance of Jesus, and to become grounded in God’s word and truth. As they live and move forward into the world, these years at CPC will help to shape and strengthen their faith. Our prayer is that their roots will stay grounded in Christ, even in the dead of their times of winter and that they always will sense that spring “hope”: the hope that resides in Christ today and for eternity. With this, may they bear much fruit in their lives!!

An invitation goes out to anyone who wants to serve the middle and high school youth of CPC. We are in need of committee members and youth advisors for our youth group meetings. Whether you feel called, or are simply aware of the urgent need to shape youth in today’s world, please contact Tina Fischer at [capfischer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:capfischer@sbcglobal.net) or 440-729-4515. You will quickly learn, as I have, that the youth at CPC are also teaching, nurturing, and “shaping” us adults. What a true Blessing that we can grow in our faith together! Thanks SO MUCH to all those who have offered their time to this ministry.

Upcoming Youth events: 9:30 Sunday school: Collaborate Bible study in April and May.  
Bridges sessions: April 24 and May 15, 6-7:30. Youth Group April 10 and May 1, 6-7:30.

Tina Fischer  
Youth Elder



# OTHER NEWS

## DEACONS' UPDATE ON BEACHLAND DINNERS

After taking November and December off from our dinner ministry we started back on January 28th without much promotion and advertising. Mike Trof cooked 15 pounds of pasta and Gary & Sandy Stumpf, Bill Gripp, Aland Smith, Joy Kule and I served 48 dinners before "seconds" and carry-outs!!

In February we served a total of 70 meals. For your information...for those of you who thought it was impossible to burn pasta while it's cooking, you're wrong -- it is possible! Ask Mike Trof and Rich Levine!! It also makes for strong muscles and lots of pan scrubbing...a great workout!!!

We thank you all again for your financial support as well as food donations. We are always looking for help serving so, if that is something you have considered, join us! If you have any questions regarding what we do, please call Cyndie Trof at 440-729-3764.

## INTRODUCING THE RED BAG MINISTRY...

...a new way to collect food for the Geauga Hunger Task Force Food Pantry housed in our church.

- Pick up a red reusable grocery bag following worship
- Fill it with nonperishable food items
- Return it the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month
- Take a new bag



With the Red Bag Ministry, even an ordinary shopping trip can become part of how God is reaching Geauga Country residents in need of food.

### SIGN UP FOR PRAYER

If you are interested in being a part of a telephone prayer chain, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Sandy Stumpf at: 440-708-8170.

- Weather related and other cancellations
- Urgent announcements
- Prayer requests and funeral information

## 2016 OPERATING BUDGET

Month	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Difference (Income – Expenses)
Jan-Feb	\$ 35,892.15	\$41,177.43	(\$ 5,285.28)
			<b>Reserve as of January 1<sup>st</sup>: \$ 3,686.66</b>
			<b>Operating Fund Balance (\$ 1,598.62)</b>
<b>Please keep your pledge up to date to support our operating budget.</b>			

# April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:30am Sunday School for Preschoolers through Adults 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Life Group - Reeves' Home	4 1:00pm Staff 7:30pm Deacons 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	5 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Life Group - Smith's Home 6:30pm Bootcamp	6 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Children's Ministries Meeting 6:00pm Tiger Den Meeting	7 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	8 6:00pm Spiritual Formation Meeting 7:00pm Life Group - McArthur's Home	9 8:00am Men's Bible Study Girl Scouts 3:00pm Life Group - Scott's Home
10 9:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School for Preschoolers through Adults 10:30am Worship 11:45am Mission Committee Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group	11 6:00pm Spiritual Formation Meeting 7:00pm YAK 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	12 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp	13 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Girl Scouts	14 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School for Preschoolers through Adults 10:30am Worship	18 7:00pm Property & Maintenance Meeting 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	19 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Bootcamp 7:00 Session	20 6:30am Men's Bible Study 11:00am Chapel Circle	21 9:30am Garden Club 6:00pm Worship Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	22	23 8:00am Men's Bible Study
24 9:30am Sunday School for Preschoolers through Adults 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group - Bridges	25 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group	26 9:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm New Initiatives Meeting 6:30pm Bootcamp	27 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Weblo Den Meeting	28 Beachland Dinner 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Grateful Praise Rehearsal	29	30

**SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY CARE:**  
 9:30am Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers  
 10:30am Nursery care is available for 4 and younger

# April

<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Tom & Margie Clapp	04/11
Skip & Barbara Van Kampen	04/12
Sam & Paula Martillotta	04/25
Gary & Sandy Stumpf	04/28
<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Nick Elswick	04/03
Brad Moritz	04/03
Frank Mormino	04/05
Liz Palchick	04/05
Brenda Varner	04/08
Carson McCandless	04/09
Stacey Johnson	04/10
Jane Lyon	04/11
Evelyn Hammond	04/14
Jonathan Moritz	04/14
Christian Chenoweth	04/17
John Johnson	04/17
Frank Lyon	04/20
Irene Wunderle	04/20
Mary Keller	04/21
Luke Russell	04/21
Lila Latta	04/22
Karen Perko	04/24
Glenn Rex	04/24
Leila Simpson	04/24
Alex Goodin	04/26
Trish Lawrence	04/26
Sean Arp	04/30
Carol Louis	04/30
Cyndie Tropf	04/30
Ann Wong	04/30

Dear CPC Family,

Thank you for the phone calls, cards, and flowers that I received during the adjustment to my new knee.

All is going well!

Your Friend in Christ,  
Gail Sabo

## **CHAPEL CIRCLE**

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Held at CPC

**Leader:** Nancy Kule

**Devotions:** Charlotte Wood

**Assignment:** Lesson 8

II Thessalonians pp. 79-85

**Church office hours:**

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Monday - Thursday

**Contact Information**

**Christ Presbyterian Church**

12419 Chillicothe Rd.

Chesterland, OH 44026

440-729-1688

Fax: 440-729-3733

**Website:**

[www.christpcusa.org](http://www.christpcusa.org)

**Church Office e-mail:**

[office@christpcusa.org](mailto:office@christpcusa.org)

[karen@christpcusa.org](mailto:karen@christpcusa.org)

**Pastor Matt's e-mail:**

[matt@christpcusa.org](mailto:matt@christpcusa.org)

Like us on [Facebook](#)